

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A valve comprising:

a valve body including a metering chamber and a sampling chamber;

a first sealing ring having a first rounded stem-receiving portion adapted to engage a valve stem, the first sealing ring being fixedly stationary relative to the valve body;

a valve stem having a transfer passage for transferring fluid content from the sampling chamber to the metering chamber and a dispensing passage for dispensing fluid from the metering chamber, the valve adapted to be receivable by the first sealing ring and adapted to slidably sealingly engage the first sealing ring in contact with at least a portion of the first rounded stem-receiving portion, wherein the valve stem is movable relative to the valve body between a valve-closed position in which the dispensing passage is isolated from the metering chamber and the transfer passage places the sampling and metering chambers in communication and a valve-open position in which the dispensing passage is in communication with the metering chamber and the transfer passage is isolated from the metering chamber; and

a second sealing ring having a second rounded stem-receiving portion, the second sealing ring provided between the metering chamber and the sampling chamber, wherein the second sealing ring is adapted to slidably sealingly engage the valve stem in contact with at least a portion of the second rounded stem-receiving portion, and wherein the second sealing ring is fixedly stationary relative to the valve body.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 1, wherein the area of contact between the rounded stem-receiving portion of the sealing ring and the valve stem is less than 90% of the area of contact for a non-rounded sealing ring.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The valve according to claim 1, wherein the first sealing ring is made by a moulding process.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding process is injection moulding.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding process is compression moulding.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding process is transfer moulding.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The valve according to claim 1 ~~adapted to be~~ [[7]], wherein the first sealing ring is ~~adapted to be~~ fixedly stationary within a cavity in the valve body.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The valve according to claim 1, wherein the rounded stem-receiving portion of the first sealing ring includes at least one rounded edge.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The valve according to ~~any of~~ claim 1, wherein the rounded stem-receiving portion of the first sealing ring includes a lobed surface.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 10, wherein the lobed surface includes one or more wells.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 11, wherein the one or more wells includes a lubricant material therein.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The valve according to claim 1 [[13]], wherein the area of contact between the second rounded stem-receiving portion and the valve stem is less than 90% of the area of contact between a non-rounded sealing ring and the stem.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 1, wherein the second sealing ring is made by a moulding process.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 15 wherein the moulding process is injection moulding.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 15 wherein the moulding process is compression moulding.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 15 wherein the moulding process is transfer moulding.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The valve according to claim 1 [[19]], wherein the second sealing ring is fixedly stationary within a cavity in the valve body.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 14, wherein the second stem-receiving portion includes at least one rounded edge.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 15, wherein the second stem-receiving portion includes a lobed surface.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 22, wherein the lobed surface includes one or more wells.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 23, wherein the one or more wells include a lubricant material.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): The valve according to claim 1, wherein the first sealing ring comprises an elastomeric material.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The valve according to claim 1 [[13]], wherein the second sealing ring comprises a second elastomeric material.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 26 wherein the second elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer comprising a copolymer of about 80 to about 95 percent ethylene and a total of about 5 to about 20 mole percent of one or more of 1-butene, 1-hexen and 1-octene; a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block co-polymer; an ethylene propylene diene rubber; a thermoplastic elastomer blend of an ethylene propylene diene rubber dispersed in a polypropylene polyethylene matrix; a butyl polyethylene; a butyl-polypropylene; and any mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A valve according to claim 1 [[27]], wherein the first sealing ring additionally comprises a lubricant material.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): A valve according to claim 1 [[13]], wherein the second sealing ring additionally comprises a second lubricant material.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): A valve according to claim 1, wherein the stem comprises a third lubricant material.

Claims 31-34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The valve according to claim 25 wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer comprising a copolymer of about 80 to about 95 percent ethylene and a total of about 5 to about 20 mole percent of one or more of 1-butene, 1-hexen and 1-octene; a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block co-polymer; an ethylene propylene diene rubber; a thermoplastic elastomer blend of an ethylene propylene diene rubber dispersed in a polypropylene polyethylene matrix; a butyl polyethylene; a butyl-polypropylene; and any mixtures thereof.